

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 231405

FOLLOWING REPEAT MANILA 15849 SENT ACTION SECSTATE SEP 08.

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 15849

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PEPR, TW, US

SUBJECT: FUTURE OF NAMRU-2

REF: STATE 209466

1. NMRDC CONCEPT PAPER HAS BEEN RECEIVED HERE AND DISCUSSED WITH DR. JOHN CROSS, SCIENTIFIC DIRECTOR, NAMRU-2, WHO VISITED THE EMBASSY SETEMBER 5. DR. CROSS TOLD US THAT THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS (CNO) AND JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF (JCS) HAVE STILL NOT APPROVED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NAMRU-2 IN THE PHILIPPINES AS PROPOSED IN THE CONCEPT PAPER. EVEN IF APPROVED THIS MONTH, DR. CROSS OPINED THAT THE EARLIEST THAT AN ADVANCE PARTY COULD ARRIVE IN THE PHILIPPINES WOULD BE DECEMBER 1978/JANUARY 1979.

2. NAMRU-2 PERSONNEL PARTICIPATE IN JOINT MEDICAL RESEARCH PROJECTS AND STUDIES IN THE FIELD OF DISEASES
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ENDEMIC AND EPIDEMIC IN THF PHILIPPINES AS MUTUALLY AGREED BY NAMRU-2 AND THE PHILIPPINE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH. THIS WAS ESTABLISHED BY AGREEMENT IN THE EXCHANGE OF DIPLOMATIC NOTE 278 DATED MAY 21, 1976 SIGNED BY AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN AND GOP DIPLOMATIC NOTE 76-1330 OF 21 MAY 1976. THIS AGREEMENT STILL STANDS. INCLUDED IN THE AGREEMENT IS THE PROVISION FOR US CIVILIAN PERSONNEL ASSIGNFD OR

ATTACHED TO NAMRU-2 AND THEIR DEPENDENTS, TO ENTER THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES FOR LIMITED PERIODS OF TIME
FOR THE PURPOSE OF CARRYING ON AGREED MEDICAL AND
SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH PROJECTS.

3. WE NOTE IN REFTEL THAT THE DEPARTMENT CONCURS IN
NMRDC CONCEPT PROPOSAL. WE HAVE NO APPROACHED GOP
FORMALLY CONCERNING THIS MATTER AND CONSIDER IT NECESSARY
TO DO SO -- AND TO RECEIVE GOP APPROVAL -- BEFORE PLANS
SUMMARIZED IN REFTEL BEGIN TO BE IMPLEMENTED. WE ARE PRE-
PARED TO APPROACH GOP AT ANY TIME BUT BELIEVE IT MIGHT BE
BEST TO WAIT UNTIL NOTIFIED THAT CNO AND JCS HAVE APPROVED
NAMRU-2 MOVE. OUR APPROACH TO GOP WOULD CONSIST OF PROPOSAL
TO EXTEND MAY 21, 1976 AGREEMENT TO INCLUDE ESTABLISHMENT
OF NAMRU-2 WITH STATEMENT OF ITS PROPOSED MISSION AND OPER-
ATIONS. WE WILL ALSO REQUEST THE APPROPRIATE PRIVILEGES
AND IMMUNITIES FOR PERSONNEL, DUTY FREE IMPORTATION OF THEI
CARS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS AND THE REQUISITE TAX EXEMPTIONS
FOR PROFESSIONAL MATERIAL, LIBRARY, EQUIPMENTS AND SUPPLIES

4. WHILE WE ANTICIPATE GOP APPROVAL, WE CANNOT BE CERTAIN
OF THIS GIVEN THE CURRENT SENSITIVITIES RELATING TO THE MIL
ITARY BASES. IN ANY CASE, LEAVING ASIDE THE QUESTION OF
CNO AND JCS APPROVAL, WE DO NOT BELIEVE DEPARTMENT OR NAMRU
CAN COUNT ON GOP APPROVAL IN TIME TO MEET SCHEDULE SET FORTH
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UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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